

Carolinas HealthCare System is



Open Letter to Our Community

From Edward J. Brown III, Atrium Health Board Chairman

Over the last several months the Atrium Health Board has closely monitored the progress of the negotiations and decision to terminate our contract with Mednax, the Florida-based corporation that bought the physician-owned Southeast Anesthesiology Consultants practice for \$200 million in 2010. Atrium Health negotiated in good faith with Mednax for months, but ultimately Mednax wouldn't agree to significant key terms, including changes that would protect the safety of our patients through provisions addressing Mednax's demonstrated instability in providing services. Knowing the truth about this situation, it is painful to see Mednax continue to run its unethical fear-based smear campaign, spreading false and misleading information about Atrium Health in our community.

Our Atrium Health Board members are now being contacted with veiled threats in an attempt to force us to agree to things that are not in the best interest of Atrium Health, since Mednax is facing a substantial loss of business. As the Chairman of the Board, I'm deeply disappointed by the unethical and desperate approach that Mednax has taken.

The Atrium Health Board knows the real truth about Mednax and the public is now learning the truth as well. Mednax appears to be a desperate company willing to trample medical ethics and standards of conduct and interfere with Atrium Health's mission to its patients – simply to leverage a business deal for its shareholders.

The Board stands united in condemning Mednax's conduct and will continue to support Atrium Health to defend against Mednax's malicious and baseless attacks. As the Chairman of the Atrium Health Board, I am confident that Atrium Health is doing everything possible to ensure a seamless transition of anesthesia services to Scope Anesthesia and we believe they will exceed our expectations in supporting Atrium Health's world-class surgical programs. The leadership at Atrium Health is deeply experienced in leading effectively through issues like these.

In fact, it is worth emphasizing that highly qualified anesthesiologists with decades of experience from highly regarded institutions such as Johns Hopkins, Mayo Clinic, Cleveland Clinic and Duke Health have sought opportunities with Atrium Health's new anesthesia provider so they can be part of our surgical teams. These physicians are already meeting with Atrium Health's surgical staff and certified registered nurse anesthetists to ensure a smooth transition to Scope Anesthesia on July 1.

When making business decisions, such as changing anesthesia services partners, Atrium Health's commitment to patients, employees and the community is unwavering.

Atrium Health has never compromised on quality and safety, and never will.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Brown".

Edward J. Brown III
Chairman, Atrium Health Board

In addition to being the current chairman of the Atrium Health Board, Edward J. Brown III, is a long-time resident and respected community leader of Charlotte, North Carolina.

AtriumHealth.org/TheTruth

